

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

2-18-43

Dear Dr. King,

Heard from Vic Baer that you may be coming to the Princeton campus next week but I am dropping you this line anyway just in case your plans do not materialize for there is something that I would like to ask you.

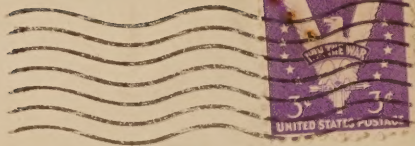
The seminary is planning to run a summer school this year and I have already registered. So if all goes well I will be thru with seminary in August. Now then, how are the chances of going to some field in Alaska? My wife and I are both anxious to get busy up there as soon as we can. We noticed in the missions' prayerbook that there were seven vacancies up there. Of course Matanuska Valley appealed to us most and in our imaginations we were already hard at work up there.

If the door should be shut to Alaska I am planning to enter the Naval Chaplaincy and negotiations along that line should be started soon so if you could find time to drop us a line or two about the above it would be appreciated very much. A fellow could do valuable work in the Navy of course but my heart is somehow set on Alaska.

Anxiously waiting for your letter or your visit
I remain,

Your friend in Christ,

Victor Alfson



Dr. E. B. King
Board of National Mission
of the Presbyterian Church
156 Fifth Ave
New York City.

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"



STATION 0



V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

5-4-1943

Dear Dr. King -

You probably haven't heard anything from Alaska yet, or else you would have let us know, but I just thought I'd drop a line sort of to keep the pot boiling. -

Monday I was licenced by the Presbytery of Philadelphia and the next step of course is ordination so here is the question I have on my mind. If we go to Alaska in August you said something about being ordained up there which would be very interesting to me. But if you get word that we are not going up I wish you would let me know for then I would start negotiation to be ordained in Philadelphia as soon as possible. -

My wife and I are talking Alaska

all the time and we would all to
go in August of course. But maybe
the Lord has different plans and so
we are content to wait. Do you
have any idea of when the next
chance might be if the August plans
should fold up? The people in my
church would probably like to know.

Hope you don't mind these
notes all the time!

Your friend in Christ,

Victor Alfson

May 6, 1943

Mr. Victor I. Alfsen
95 Linden Lane
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Victor:

I am almost ready to give you a final word that the work at Palmer will be opened to you when you have completed your Seminary work in August. Since I have not had any word to the contrary, it is my opinion that this church is going to accept the recommendation I made concerning you. Therefore, I think you can begin making your definite plans to go to Alaska as soon as Seminary closes.

In regard to your ordination, it will probably be best for you to have this given to you before you leave the States. I recommend that you start negotiating now with the Presbytery for the ordination as soon as possible. The Yukon Presbytery is small and travel is expensive, so that even if you waited to be ordained in Alaska, it might cause an unnecessary delay of several months which would handicap you in your work. It would be better for you to enter the field as an ordained minister.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

5-25-43

Dear Dr. King -

Called you today and found that you were having one of your busy weeks and so the call saved us a trip to N.Y.

Your last letter of course excited us but is it O.K. for us to go ahead and pack? We would hate to ship half our stuff out to Seattle and then find out we weren't going. And the people in our church are getting anxious to find out definitely too. Not that they are anxious to get rid of us!

We could swing around N.Y. some Saturday on our way to Otisville but maybe you could tell us all the things we need to know by mail. For example, we

ought to know pretty exactly what is
in the mouse so we can know what
to take and what to leave behind.

We ought to know the address of the
steam ship line in Seattle so we can
begin to ship our heavy stuff, books
etc. We ought to know what kind
of identification we need, birth-
certificates etc. We ought to start
worrying about how and where
to get gas for our buggy. We don't
want to sound like a couple of old
fuddy-duddies but if we knew some
of these things we should feel the whole
thing was more certain. We are both
itching to get going and if we can
stand the weather physically, ~~and~~ I
believe you'll have a couple of
workers that you can count on
for a long time to come.

Your friends in Christ
Virginia and Victor Alfson

June 1, 1943

Mr. Victor I. Alfson
95 Linden Lane
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Victor:

I will be in the office all this week and if you can and care to come in to see me. Let me know a day or so ahead in order that I can reserve the time for you.

It is definitely settled now that you are to go to Palmer, Alaska immediately after you have completed your seminary course. I am notifying Mr. Howell that we shall expect him later on to secure reservations for you on the steamship. It will be necessary for you to secure your papers in Seattle. That will not take you but a few hours.

The wisest thing for you to do is to drop in to the office and we can talk through any of the problems you have in mind.

Cordially yours,

EEK:f

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

6/2/43

Dear Dr. King -

Thanks so much for your "good news" letter. We are bath up in the air with excitement of course.

We shall be in N.Y. this Friday, the 4th, and can be in your office by 2:00 p.m. Hope that is convenient for you. We will leave for our church then at 5:00 p.m.
See you then!

Cordially yours,
Victa Aefsen

July 26, 1943

Memo to Dr. King:

Mr. Alfson and a young lady came in to see you this morning at ten o'clock, Mr. Alfson saying that he had an appointment with you. Miss Worden explained that you had gone to Philadelphia and would not be back until late this afternoon. As Mr. Alfson had to catch a three o'clock train, he did not wait, feeling that you would not be back in time to see him.

IS

July 27, 1943

Dear Mr. Alfson:

I am sorry that I failed to see you yesterday. After you telephone me, I received a call to come to Philadelphia Monday morning.

I returned to the office early in the afternoon, but of course you had caught the three o'clock train.

Inclosed I am sending you a copy of my letter that is being sent to Bill Howell. I hope it brings the results.

Cordially yours,

EBK:ls

August 20, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. Victor I. Alfsen
c/o Rev. Dr. William J. Howell
P. O. Box 386
Ephrata, Washington

Dear Alfsen:

Enclosed you will find our treasurer's check for one hundred dollars, representing an advance payment on your travel expenses out to Washington. You will please send me an itemized statement, and if you need more I shall be more than glad to send another check. If you do not use the full one hundred dollars, then you can apply it on your transportation to Palmer. I hope that you enjoyed a good trip to the West.

I cannot recall that we have discussed any definite salary relationship for you in the work at Palmer. I think it would be wise to have something in black and white. I am proposing that you receive a salary of \$2000.00 annually and the free use of the manse. This salary is to be divided as follows:

\$1340 to be paid in monthly installments by the Board of National Missions, plus the pension premium on this amount.

I recommended that the Church pay you \$55.00 a month, plus the pension premium, which will make a total of \$2000.00 a year.

I do not have confirmation from the Church about this amount of money to be paid on your salary. If the Palmer Church is not able to pay the \$660.00 a year, then it would be necessary for the Board to step up their grant in order to give you a total salary of \$2000.00. Since you are on your own I am docketing you as of August 15. In other words, your salary from the Board was started August 15. Enclosed you will find the treasurer's check for one half month's salary from August 15 to September 1.

We are mailing vouchers and report blanks to you at Palmer. It will be

Rev. Mr. Alfson

-2-

August 20, 1943

necessary for you to fill out these report blanks regularly each month. However, I am instructing the treasury department to mail the check to you each month regardless of whether or not we receive the voucher. This is done because of the slow mail service.

If there is any additional information that I can give you, let me know. When you have your bill for the shipment of your goods to Seattle, let me have it and I shall send you a check for that amount.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

enc.

cks. - \$100.00 - Exp.
- Sal.

August 23, 1943

P.S.

Unfortunately the Treasury Department has informed us that we cannot send you your salary check until you fill out the enclosed forms. Will you please fill out these forms and return them air mail to us so that you can get your salary check, before you leave for Alaska, for the half month of August. We are, however, enclosing the \$100.00 check as stated above.

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

Curlew

9-10-43

Dear Dr. King -
Thank you for your wire and your letter. That was bad news about my wife but there is of course nothing to be done about it at present. I would, however, prefer not to leave for Palmer without her. I hear that if she were going to a job she could go. Couldn't we arrange some kind of job for her? — Our plans at present are to leave for Seattle on the 13th, Monday, and then be on hand there for any conferences, meetings, phone calls, interviews, etc. — If the arrangements should require a week or two more I could get some preaching engagements.

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

while I was in Seattle. — It is of course very disappointing to have to cool our heels this way but we are praying and are confident that all will come out all right. Thank you so much for arranging about the expenses. — We shall keep in daily touch with Rev. Howell from the 13th on so we can be reached there. Curlew is a little awkward to reach but we have had some swell days here.

Your friends in Christ,
Virginia and Victor
Alfson

V. I. A.
OSLINDEN-LAKE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

Curlew, Wash.

8-31-43

Dear Dr. King

Here we are in the town where I served last summer, visiting with my wife's folks. We have had a swell trip so far and only hope that the rest of the way will be the same. —

We were sorry that we missed you in W. V. but those things are bound to happen. I am afraid we got away without the usual last minute instructions but perhaps things will work out anyway. —

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"

My understanding about the
the expenses is not quite clear
so I am hereby submitting
our expenses to-date and maybe
that will give you some idea
to go by:

To ship books by parcel post —	12.84
" " trunks " freight	35.10
Gas on the trip (178.5 gal.)	39.56
Oil and grease	6.30
Repairs on the road	19.75
Toll - here and there	1.85
Lodging	16.75
Meals	19.61
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$ 151.76

Of course, we are not in Seattle
yet but I don't think the expenses
will be great to get us there.

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
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From my last conversation with you I have the understanding that you would pay some of the expenses and I hope that is a correct assumption. — We'll need a couple of new tires for the car so we'll have very little to go on when we once get to Palmer if we have to stand all the expense ourselves. —

If some financial support is forthcoming perhaps you could get in touch with W. J. Howell whom I will contact as soon as I arrive in Seattle; or if you care to write here to

V. I. A.
95 LINDEN LANE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
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Charles we are planning to remain
here until the 9th.

We are keenly anticipating
our arrival in Palmer and hope
to be able to do some good
work there.

Best regards from

your friend in Christ,

Victor Alfzen

September 22, 1943

Rev. Mr. Victor Alfson
Curlew, Washington.

Dear Alfson:

I do hope that the way will open so that you and your wife both can be on your way to Palmer. I just heard from Mrs. Crawford, and she told me that she was able to secure passage back to Alaska. That was encouraging, and perhaps the way will be open soon for both you and your wife to make the trip to Palmer.

You will keep me posted and let me know any new developments.

Cordially yours,

PAK:S

Seward, Alaska
10-1-43.

enroute to Palmer.

Dear Miss Kidd ---

Thank you for your letter and the enclosed check. We have, however, not received the check for \$100 nor the blanks that you wanted me to fill out. Rev. Howell took wonderful care of us in Seattle and we are now just a few hours from our final destination. I was sorry to hear about Dr. King's resignation. I am hoping that you will put in a good word for us with ^{me} whoever might succeed Dr. King. — We will be expecting to hear from you then in regard to the two matters mentioned above.

Your friend in Christ
Rev. Victor Alfson
Palmer Alaska.

Palmer, Alaska
Oct. 7, 1934
[1943]

Dear Dr. King —

Your letter of Aug. 20th finally arrived so I am in possession of the check for \$100 to cover travel expenses. Thank you so much!

I am enclosing the tax blank of course and that should release my salary checks from Aug. 15th on. ~~per~~ 10/7/43
m.k.

I am also enclosing a voucher and report blank (not the right kind which perhaps will do for the month I was travelling. — We had a nice visit with Dr. Keeler yesterday. He looked fine.

Cordially

Victor Alsen.

MONTHLY REPORT

For Month Ending

AUG 31, 1943

Synod WASH. Presbytery YUKON Church Served PALMER
 Report of (name) VICTOR ALFSEN Address PALMER, ALASKA
 Present Membership of Church 2, of Sunday School 2, Total Number Families 1

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

SUNDAY MEETINGS	1st Sun. or Week	2nd Sun. or Week	3rd Sun. or Week	4th Sun. or Week	5th Sun. or Week	TOTAL
1. Morning Service Attendance						
2. Afternoon Service Attendance						
3. Night Service Attendance						
4. Sunday School Attendance						
5. Young People's Meeting Attendance						
6. Other Meetings Attendance						
Week-Day Meetings and Other Items and Activities						
7. Prayer-Meeting Attendance						
8. Attendance—Leadership Training						
9. Attendance—Vacation Bible School						
10. Attendance—Week-day Religious Instruction						
11. Attendance—Minister's Preparatory Class						
12. Attendance—Organized Activities—Boys						
13. Attendance—Organized Activities—Girls						
14. Attendance—Org. Activities—Young People						
15. Attendance—Org. Activities—Adults						
16. Attendance—Women's Society						
17. Attendance—Other Meetings and Activities						
18. New Members received by Confession						
19. New Members received by Letter						
20. Amount Paid by Church on Pastor's Salary						
21. Amount Paid by Church on Current Expense						
22. Amount Paid to National Missions						
23. Amount Paid for Other Benevolences						
24. Number of Pastoral Visits						

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND NARRATIVE
 MAKE A SEPARATE REPORT FOR EACH CHURCH SERVED

Send this voucher direct to the Treasurer

MONTHLY VOUCHER

CHECK H

Please write nothing above this line

AUG 31, 1943
 Date

To The Board of National Missions:

This is to Certify, that to date I have
 labored during the month of 8-15
8-31, 1943, on the field to which

I have been appointed within the bounds of the
 Synod } of YUKON
 Presbytery }

and that there is due me \$ _____
 for the full month's service which I expect to
 complete.

Rev. Victor Alfson
Palmer,
Alaska
(in transit)

P.O. Address to which
 check is to be sent

Please write nothing below this line

Audited for \$ _____ By _____
 Month of _____
 Compared by _____
 Check mailed _____

Vouchers may be mailed on the 15th of month

Please do not omit date or P. O. Address

TO MISSIONARIES

1. To facilitate the prompt payment of salaries, vouchers should be filed on the 15th of each month for which salary is due. The monthly report, which is required to be submitted *with* the voucher, must necessarily be for the previous month; that is, the voucher for May salary will be filed with the report for April, and subsequent months in the same manner.

2. If a missionary regularly serves more than one point, he will fill out a blank with salary voucher attached *for one church only*; another blank without voucher should be used for each other organized church served. The blanks without vouchers should be mailed in the same envelope with the voucher report.

MONTHLY NARRATIVE

While a statistical report is important in showing the program of the work, its range of activities and the attendance thereon, it can neither embody the real spirit of what is going on nor do justice to the work and workers. Accordingly, please write below a brief statement each month telling of any particular problems faced, new developments, special occasions and incidents of encouragement. Include in this Narrative a report of any activities for which space is not provided on the reverse side of this blank, with particular reference to items included in the Standards for Aided Churches.

October 7, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Victor I. Alfson
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Alfson:

Enclosed you will find your check covering salary for August 15 through to September 30, 1943. Because you are so far away and due to the fact that Dr. King sent through a memo informing the Treasury that you were an ordained minister we are able to send you your check this once in spite of the fact that we have not received necessary forms.

The Board is not going to deduct either Victory Tax or Income Tax from ordained ministers' salaries. You will, therefore, have to make your own Victory Tax and Income Tax report and will have to pay it yourself. However, we will still have to have the enclosed forms filled out and returned to us for our records. Please fill them out immediately and return them to us via air mail, so that your October salary will not be held up.

In regard to the one hundred dollars, this check was enclosed in Dr. King's letter to you dated August 20, 1943, and was addressed to you care of Rev. Dr. Howell. Since it was addressed to Ephrata, Washington and Dr. Howell had moved to Renton, this may have caused the delay. I am sure that by this time Dr. Howell has received it and has forwarded it to you. However, please let us know if you do not receive it within a reasonable length of time.

I trust that you have arrived in Palmer all right, and that your work there will be happy and successful.

Cordially yours,

ENC

enc. ok \$212.55

11 — Tax forms also

December 6, 1943

AIR MAIL

The Rev. Victor T. Alfson
Palmer, Alaska

My dear Mr. Alfson:

We have received word from Miss Margaret T. Miller, Secretary of the Church Council in Palmer, indicating that the Church has agreed to the arrangement concerning the payment of the \$1100.00 loan for the new heating plant in the church.

As we understand the arrangement, the church is to pay you the regular amount of \$25.00 toward your salary, plus \$30.00 a month which we are to credit against this loan until it is paid. This means that we shall send you \$30.00 less each month in your check, and apply that against the loan here. In other words, the church will be paying you \$55.00 a month and your voucher will call for \$111.66 a month from the Board. This will give you the salary of \$2000.00 a year, plus manse and pension.

There has been nothing said in the record of the possibility of the church paying the 8% on the full \$55.00 a month to you. We feel this matter ought to be adjusted, so that you will not have any loss of credit with the Pension Board for your service. We wonder if this would be an embarrassment to you to have it taken up with the Church Council. If you feel it would be, then we shall take it up directly through Miss Miller or Mr. Irwin.

One other thing we want to be sure of and that is that you have been getting your full month's salary during October and November. We have made this change on the dockets here for December, but want to be sure that you were cared for.

We trust that your work is going well in Palmer and that you are able to meet all of the opportunities of service which lie around you.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JES/mk

COPY

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
Palmer, Alaska

12 - 12 - 1943

Mr. Tackman

Will you kindly give him guidance

Dear Friends:

Enclosed are the checks from our church for 1943.

As you see they are earmarked for various purposes. They were made out by our treasurer without any direction from me. You see, I am just green out of seminary and have been in this church only two months and when the serious business of running a church is really under way I feel that my knowledge is lacking in several fields, one of which is church finance. Are there any pamphlets you could send me which would help? For example, enclosed are some checks for missions and one for benevolences. I thought missions were part of benevolences? How much should go where, etc.? I would like to have all these things clear in my own mind so I can properly guide the congregation over which I am in charge.

My checks have been coming through very promptly and I want to thank you very sincerely for them. If I do anything improperly on my monthly reports do not hesitate to let me know.

With best wishes for the New Year, I remain your fellow-worker
in Christ,

Victor Alfsen

Checks enclosed

ch. payable Foreign Miss.	25 ⁰⁰	given them 12/21/43	(Pastor)
" " War Time Service	30 ⁰⁰	" " " " " "	
" " Bd. Nat'l Miss.	10 ⁰⁰	designated S. S. M.?	} Nat'l Missions
" " " " "	50 ⁰⁰	" " " " " "	
" " " " "	25 ⁰⁰	earmarked Bd. Pensions	
		given them 12/21/43	

DEC 1943

re these matters
The receipts
for the two
Nat'l Miss.
ch's
will come
to you
J.V.

joint Budget.
Planbook.
Church Finance
Causess.
Benevolence.
N. A. C. P.
San. and Soc.
(War Time Service
no credit.
separate
report from CRA.
clear statement.
your note to ch. treas.
- thru al office.

December 28, 1943

AIR MAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

My dear Mr. Alfsen:

Miss Vint has referred a letter of yours to me, asking that we make some suggestions to you in response to your request for help concerning the finance of your church and your remittances or benevolences. This letter has come to me because I now have the responsibility for helping our churches in Alaska.

We are asking our Office of United Promotion to send you a Plan Book, a copy of the Youth Budget Manual, and a copy of the Every Member Canvass Folder, "Financing the Church". You will find in these the basic principles of financing a church in every way. However, if you have further questions, and want other material, don't hesitate to ask us. We are here to help you get settled in your new church, and get a good start in your ministry.

You are right in believing that benevolences include missions. Under our benevolence budget we include National Missions, Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Pensions, Seminaries, American Bible Society and Federal Council of Churches. Each year the General Assembly, upon recommendation of the General Council, establishes a regular percentage basis for the division of the benevolences among these agencies named. You will find this material in your Plan Book. If some church, however, decides to exercise its Presbyterian right, it may disregard this percentage division, and designate its benevolence gifts for the particular causes of its choice. The normal thing is to forward the total amount of benevolence giving in one check to the Central Receiving Agency here at 156, with a clear statement as to the proper division of the amount forwarded. The Central Receiving Agency will then make the division to the respective agencies as you direct.

The above includes everything, except the gifts for the War-Time Service Commission, which are given no credit in the General Assembly Minutes, but are a plus for this emergency period.

You will find that you have regular church contacts through all the respective agencies of our denomination, but your particular relationship, in Alaska

Rev. Alfson

-2-

December 28, 1943

Comes through this office for whatever service we can render to you in helping you go forward in your program. Please feel free to call upon us in any way. Meanwhile, I hope to be in Alaska some time this summer and want to visit your field, if possible. You will be interested to know that in my former office with the Board, I worked with Miss Louise Jaeger who is an Aunt of Harry Jaeger from Princeton. I had heard of you through Harry about the time you went to Alaska.

Cordially yours,

JHJ/mk

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work In Alaska

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
PALMER ALASKA

2-16-44

Dear Rev. Jackman—

Here is the monthly scandal sheet which looks pretty good thanks to the sheet in the arm we received when Yukon Presbytery met here.

This was the first time "the northern-most Presbytery in the world" met in the Palmer church and I think we did ourselves proud. Instead of farming the various preachers out among the folks in town we turned our S.S. rooms into a regular barracks and everybody was happy. Pas. R.R. Armstrong and Mr. V. Alfson acted as cooks and all our meals were taken jointly in the church kitchen. This proved to be a great boon to our Presbytery business for matters which presented knotty problems got an added going-over at the table.

The day Presbytery closed it started to snow and didn't stop till 24" or more had fallen. The temperature dropped to 30° below and consequently the 3 ministers from up Fairbanks way were snow-bound in Anchorage for a week.

Our furnace arrived and was installed thanks to approx. 200 donated working hours. It is a real asset to the worship and does away with the excuse, "I don't come to church because it is too cold in the auditorium!"

I am in receipt of a letter from Frieda Koerner which will get our full attention when the council meets March 8th. In His Glorious Service
Victor Alfson

March 1, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

My dear Mr. Alfsen:

We want to commend you upon your resourcefulness in the manner in which you took care of Presbytery in your Church. You certainly must have had a good time in all the necessary arrangements as well as a real spiritual inspiration in your meeting and fellowship. That condition is always good for a Church and does something for the minister too.

We are glad to know that your Church has completed the installation of the furnace and you are able to provide a little heat in the room beside what the preacher is expected to generate in his sermon.

I hope you have better control over the weather during early April because I want to visit you and do not care too much about thirty degrees below zero weather. I trust that nothing will interfere with a visit in Palmer during that time.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEL:FK

April 25, 1944

The Rev. Victor I. Alfson
Palmer, Alaska

My dear Mr. Alfson:

I want to thank you and your wife for a very pleasant visit. It was a real pleasure to be with you in your home and share the services with you in the Church. It gives me a better idea of your problems and the fine work which you are doing in meeting the needs of your community.

Miss Koerner has notified you from the office that we are asking The Rev. Mr. Howell to look for a typewriter for you. A newspaper article a few days ago records the fact that the O.P.A. has lifted most of the restrictions against the sale of new and used typewriters. This may make it possible for Mr. Howell to do something for you sooner. We hope he will contact you in the near future.

You will also be interested to know that a letter from the Treasurer of the Bethany Temple Church in Philadelphia reports the fact that they have taken \$500 of your support. This will give you a closer relationship with the Church where you have a personal interest. I hope this relationship may prove a great blessing to you and the Church.

I should have asked you for the address of your Mother here in New York so that I could call her and report my visit with you. I hope I shall be in the office when she arrives here for a visit.

Blessings upon you and yours in the fine ministry in your community. Give the best of yourself to your people and they will respond and grow spiritually under your leadership.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

VIA AIRMAIL

JUL 24 1944

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
PALMER ALASKA

7-18-44

Dear Rev. Jackson —

Thank you for a most interesting news bulletin. We were happy to see of the possibility of getting Paul Prouty back into Alaska. He is a good friend of ours and took part in our wedding ceremony. —

Our conference for juniors was a success. Armstrong just got back in time to be with us. There were 21 youngsters in attendance; most of them from Anchorage as the Palmer youngsters were battling with the weeds just about then. —

We have our new cess pool installed and the manse is hooked up to it. We made it out of discarded railroad ties and it should serve us for at least 10 years. —

The Bingle was down last week and we fished for salmon. We got enough canned to last us for the year but Bingle did not catch enough as he fishes for Champin and some others. —

Old age is creeping up on my car so the last four days solid I have been trying to fix it and I think I have got it licked. One learns to do a lot of things in this country. We like it swell. —

In Christian Fellowship,

Victor Alfson

July 25, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

My dear Mr. Alfsen:

Thank you for your letter of July eighteenth with its information about the progress of your work. We are glad to know that things are moving forward and your activity is developing.

I have been wondering about that car ever since I left you on Palm Sunday. My conscience has bothered me about the obligation I have for having you get it out and finding it frozen.

We have received a bill from Mr. Howell in Renton for \$2.83 which he paid for drayage on your cedar chest. He has asked us whether he should collect this from you or from us. We have made provision for the payment of the bill and will ask you what arrangement you had planned to make in regard to it.

In a territory like yours you do have to be adaptable enough to do many things; we are glad you like it. Blessings upon you and your wife in your ministry.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JBJ:FE
Dictated but not
signed by Mr. Jackman

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
PALMER ALASKA

SEP 14 1944
9-5-44

Dear Mr. Jockman —

Thanks so much for your last letter. And you needn't worry about the car, it is still running; although I had to spend 5 whole days inside it a few weeks ago and replace a broken front cross-member in the frame. By doing it myself I saved at least 75 dollars in mechanic's bills. —

Old man winter gave us a scare on Sept. 1 with a killing frost and a 2 hour snow fall but it has warmed up some since then although the mountains are still blanketed. —

About the drayage bill from Seattle; could you take it out of my check or do you want a money order from this end? —

You asked in your newsletter about the needs for the property so I had Mr. Victor Johnson, our church trustee, draw up a list, which I am enclosing.

The work is going fine and we like the place and the people better as we stay on. God is blessing us and using us for which we are very grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Victor Alfson

deduct from next check

Eg.

act on L

OK
deduct to
- P. J. -
of money
Benny
act.

October 26, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfson
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

We are a little late in getting you a letter about the salary arrangements for this year but since they were not any different than last year we have felt it was not so important. We want your salary to continue to be \$2000.- and are expecting the Church to continue their regular payments of \$25.- a month toward the salary plus the \$30.- a month which is a refund on the loan for the new furnace in the Church. Your reports are indicating that you are receiving this amount from the Church so that we are assured that you are getting what is coming to you.

In light of the increased prosperity of your people, we are wondering if it is possible for them to make additional payments toward your support or to reduce the amount of the loan more rapidly so that they may clear this item while they have the ability.

We are trying to get a greater stimulation of local giving in order to increase our ability to do more work in Alaska. Frankly this year we have the possibility of having nearly every mission station filled and there are not sufficient funds to do all the work which we have planned not to speak of opening any new work. Increased help in each local Church toward its own support of the minister's salary would give us the opportunity of reaching out for a larger ministry to the rest of the territory. If you feel this is possible in Palmer, I shall be glad to write to Mrs. Miller formally and ask the Church Council to take up the matter of increased support. Our reason for asking for correspondents in each Church is that we will approach the officers on matters which concern the support of the minister without the minister being put under the possible embarrassment of having to do this himself.

We hope that you have had a good summer and things are opening up well for another good winter. We look to your monthly reports which contain your voucher for salary payments for information about the progress of your work. We delight in having this because your friends in Seminary and others who are interested in your Church frequently ask me as I travel over the country how your work is progressing. People have confidence in your ability to carry on a strong Christian ministry and they are praying for you and listening for word of your success.

Greetings to your family and God's richest blessings be with you.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

November 28, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

Many thanks for the check for the balance of the payment on the loan for the installation of the heating system. Your Church has responded in a wonderful way and we want you to give your people our highest praise and commendation for their efforts. We feel they are making real progress in the work.

Incidentally, we want to commend you highly for your leadership with the people. Perhaps it was too much to ask them to underwrite as a regular thing the extra payments on your salary which were credited here toward the loan. A little later it may be possible for them to increase the amount of their support which would give us an opportunity to do more mission work in the territory.

According to our records the total amount of the loan was \$1100. Thirty dollars a month has been deducted from your salary and credited toward repayment on the loan through the month of December 1944; this makes a total of \$390 and the \$710 payment from the Church completes the loan.

We are glad to know that you are getting a new heating system in the manse. All these additions make hard work for the preacher but they do give him some benefit when all is finished. We trust this will make your family more comfortable in the future.

Thanks for the information concerning the officers of your Church and your family relations. Gradually we are getting together a full picture of all necessary matters.

Blessings upon you and your wife in your ministry. We rejoice that the Lord is using you for the advancement of His Kingdom.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEW:FK
Enc. Receipt #F14007-\$710.-

Miss Vint
Unit of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner

Yellowknife
November 13, 1944

Please find attached check #156 for \$710.- drawn on the Bank of Alaska by the United Protestant Church, Palmer, Alaska, Victor M. Johnson, Treasurer, in favor of the Board of National Missions.

Will you please credit the National Missions Building and Repair Grant with this amount? The Palmer Church are paying back the loan made to them in Aug. 1943 which was used for the installation of a heating system in the church. The Rev. Mr. Alfson, the pastor, writes that "...we are able at this time to return the balance of our loan in full..." However, in checking with your office (Miss Kauffmann) we learn that \$30.- has been deducted from Mr. Alfson's salary and credited to the Nat'l Miss. Building and Repair Grant from December 1943 thru Nov. 1944, which totals \$360.- for these 12 months. There is still due us \$30.- to make up this full amount of \$1100.- This additional \$30.- can be deducted from Mr. Alfson's December 1944 salary which pay up this \$1100.- loan in full.

FK

Unit of Work in Alaska
per

NOV 13 1944

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

PALMER ALASKA

Nov. 3, 1944

Dear Rev. Jackman,

Thank you so much for your last letter which I read in part to the council when we met last Wednesday evening in the manse. The Alaska bulletin was also received and read in full and the members of the council were very interested in it and said that this was first time anything like this had been done and that it gave a person a much better idea of what the church was doing in the territory. We shall be looking forward to the next one.

We praise God for His goodness that we are able at this time to return the balance of our loan in full. The council voted wholeheartedly to this thing but was not willing to keep up paying \$55.00 on my salary as I suggested. Perhaps it was a little steep. The church has, however, an arrangement, made with Dr. King, and I shall quote from our session records,

"at the close of our fiscal year, any funds that are on hand after all obligations are liquidated, will be forwarded to the Board of National Missions".

That was from the June, 1943 meeting so maybe you have the letter that was written from here to the office to that effect. As things stand now there will be a tidy sum coming your way in January. I hope that that arrangement will be satisfactory until I can make them see the advantages of a more systematic way of giving.

The furnace for the manse has been bought and paid for and I have worked like a dog getting it installed. With the help of a couple of the men in town it is now so far along that it is heating the house very nicely. We cannot begin to tell you how we appreciate the heat that comes surging up from below; not to mention how you're truly appreciate the stoker that came with it. There are several items of repair and change coming up in the near future but we are able to take care of all of them with our own funds.

I am sorry that these reports are so overdue but so many things piled up this fall that I got a little careless in my office work. I was working f. ex. during September as the physical education teacher at the high school beside helping in the all important potato harvest, but things have slowed down a little now so we can breathe a little more freely.

And here is some of the information you asked for, the persons to be contacted in the church shall be the church secretary, the chairman of the council, and the church treasurer and these are Mrs. Margaret Miller, Mr. Walter Mau, and Mr. Victor Jackson, respectively at present.

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

PALMER ALASKA

3

notes on application
my (As far as nearest of kin is concerned, that would be Mrs. J. C. Kiehl, Curlew, Washington for my wife; and Mrs. M. G. Alfsen, Stowe, Vermont for myself.

Our evening services are holding up nicely with slowly increasing attendance. Our C.E. on Sunday evenings was dying a slow death so we mercifully put it out of its misery and started a young peoples' fellowship which meets Saturday evenings and which so far has received a fine reception. We sing, have a snappy Bible study, play games, eat and go home. The attendance beats anything we ever had on Sunday nights. Last night we started up our men's club for this fall and a fine crowd was there. Wish you could have been here with us for the ladies really outdid themselves as far as the dinner was concerned, among other things they served were baked ~~ham~~ and apple pie a la mode. Is your mouth watering?

Last week we had a series of special meetings with a friend of mine from Copper Center bringing the messages. They were a real blessing to our church. We are so thankful that there are men up here with whom we can fellowship in the really Christian sense of the word.

God is richly blessing the work here in Palmer and the people seem to have a mind to work. It certainly is a rich privilege that is ours in serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks again for your kindness and interest and for keeping some of my friends posted on our progress up here.

Yours in Christ,

Victor Alfsen

P.S.

> Rev. Parker and wife dropped in on us last Sunday. I liked them. They got to meet some of the St. Lawrence girls who work in the hospital.

VA

March 15, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfson
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

We were glad to receive your letter of January 10th with a picture of the family in it. This picture brought back many happy memories of my visit with you.

We would agree with you that it would be better for the Church to increase its regular amount of support than to depend upon a surplus at the end of the Church year. In that way our budget would be more stable and the congregation might not just decide to throw everything into something else at the end of the year and leave the Board out. Perhaps a little later the congregation will see this and will be willing to go along with us. We do not want to press the point but we hope it may develop in that way.

We shall be glad to assist you in securing a set of the Pulpit Commentary. You have not indicated whether you wanted us to get you a new set or whether a good used one would be sufficient. Not long ago we heard that Ben Judd in Wrangell had a set that he was willing to sell for \$30.--. I do not know about its condition but would suggest that you write directly to Ben and inquire about it. Take time to pursue this source first and then we can investigate the possibility down here.

We have just received the minutes of the meeting of Yukon Presbytery of last August in which it was pointed out that you are the Chairman of United Promotion for the Presbytery succeeding David Crawford. We should have had this information months ago but it just came to us. A recent visit to the Synod office in Seattle gave me the information that the benevolence quota for Yukon Presbytery for the coming year is \$2853. It will be your task to allocate this to the churches in such a way to raise the entire amount. I have no authority to make this provision

March 15, 1945

but would offer to you the following suggestion:

		<u>Received</u>	<u>Quota</u>
Anchorage	+	\$ 874.00	\$ 900.00
Barrow	-	60.00	200.00
Cordova	+	53.00	200.00
Fairbanks	-	119.00	600.00
Kenai			
Palmer	+	134.00	200.00
St. Lawrence Island			
Gambell	+	351.00	200.00
Savoonga		-----	50.00
Wainwright	+	75.00	100.00
Wales	+	110.00	100.00
			<u>\$2550.00</u>

This does not make up the full amount and some adjustment should be made in the Presbytery with the hope that all of it will be taken. After the name of the Church you will find a plus or minus sign which indicates whether this Church made an advance over the preceding year or whether it went behind. The amount which was received last year is given in the next column and the quota suggested for the coming year in the third column. Again I say these are only suggestions and you are not bound by them but in my judgement these amounts can be reached by the respective churches.

I am looking forward to the pleasure of another visit with you at the time of the meeting of Presbytery in Fairbanks.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JES:PK

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

PALMER ALASKA

Jan. 10, 1944

Dear Rev. Jackman,

Many thanks for your Christmas card which came in time for the holidays and "The Disciple" which arrived yesterday. Both were greatly appreciated and it makes us feel good to know that we are remembered by our many friends in the States. We had so many lovely remembrances at Christmas time that we feel very humble and unworthy.

We had our annual congregational meeting last Sunday and the group voted that I should send their warmest greetings and gratitude to the New York office for all that you have helped us with in the year that is past. The people regard the New York office with real affection and much of that is due to the fact that you folks lead and do not boss. The people here are very independent and yet at the same time very ready to accept suggestions.

As I mentioned in a previous letter the church here was going to turn over to the Board any surplus funds which we might have at the end of the year but the way the budget was estimated there is nothing left this year as they are planning some rather large but necessary repairs for next year as you can see from the estimated needs that we sent you some time ago. I suppose I could have raised a question about this but thought it best not to say anything. Perhaps I can make them see during the coming year that a little sum coming regularly during the year is better than gambling on the returns at the end of the fiscal period.

I should like for you to order and ship a set of commentaries to me, The Pulpit Commentary in 13 volumes put out by Funk and Wagnalls. You may take the required amount out of my monthly check. Thank you in advance.

The activities in the church are coming along fine. The reorganized choir is very interested and new choir gowns are on the way. Our Sunday school was completely reorganized at the turn of the year and we hope for great results. Our a.m. and p.m. services are both holding up very nicely and much interest is shown in all the work of the church in general. Several new families have moved into the valley and many of them have already made themselves at home in our church for which we are very grateful.

Now a personal thank-you for all your interest in the past year and our sincerest wishes that God may richly bless you and your staff in the coming year.

Yours in Christian fellowship,

Victor I. Alfson

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
PALMER ALASKA

March 15, 1945

Dear Rev. Jackman,

I am late with these reports but I believe there are some legitimate excuses this time. First of all we have been putting in some hard work (manual) at the church remodeling it. Two other members and myself put in some 150 hours and we feel now that we have a far more practical building and the ladies when they served their first big meal all felt that there had been made some great improvements. We hope that you will have an opportunity to come and expect it when you come up in April. Secondly, I had a little sick spell and had to take it easy for almost a week.

At the February council meeting I managed to have the church promise to pay five dollars more a month on the pastor's salary so now their share is 30 dollars a month. It isn't much but it is a start.

At the request of Bingle I am now holding monthly services at Wska mine, some 15 miles up the valley from here. The response is very small at the meetings but I feel those that do come are interested enough to warrant the trip up there.

Some time ago I requested that you order a set of commentaries for us and as yet I have not heard a word regarding it so here is the information again. The Pulpit Commentary in 52 volumes put out by Funk and Wagnalls. I would appreciate it greatly if you could secure it for me or let me know if they are available or not.

We are eagerly looking forward to the meeting of Presbytery in April and if at all possible I am going to bring the wife too. She deserves a vacation and the opportunity to see some different people and places. Otherwise the work here is coming along very nicely, nothing spectacular, but a wholesome interest is evidenced in nearly all departments of the church. We are faithful in proclaiming God's Word in all its simplicity and power and feel sure that the Lord is going to bless our efforts.

Yours in Christian fellowship,

Victor L. Alfson

PS How about those Seventh Day Adventism booklets that are supposed to be on the way? Were they sent off?

JUN 15 1945

MR. AND MRS. MAX SHERROD
PALMER, ALASKA

June 7, 1945

Dear Mr. Jackman,

After your pep talk about reports up at Fairbanks I go and let mine become delinquent. But there has been so many things lately that demanded a fellows time so that is the way it goes.

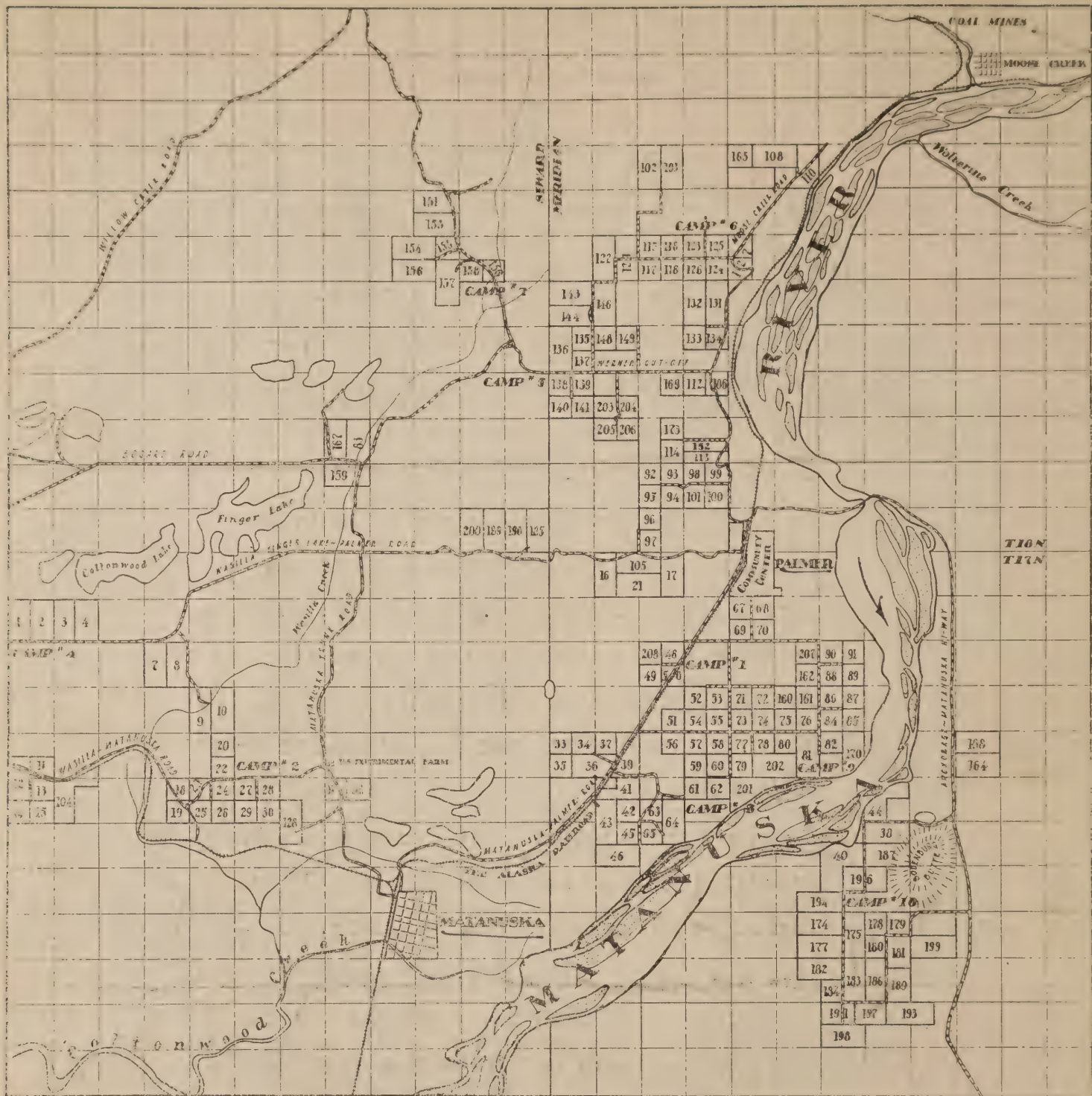
This stationery was given to me by one of the trustees who had it made up in the early days of the colony. By the way, we had a most delightful 10 year celebration last week with about 1200 people in attendance. Our Ladies Aid had a booth and cleared over 100 dollars.

My first visit to Whittier was very encouraging with 30 coming to the meeting and inviting us back as soon as possible. Armstrong is down there today.

Bingle just left today for parts north after we had spent more than a week of daylight hours trying to get the King Lake Camp in order for the first camp which begins Monday and is our Junior camp with boys and girls from Anchorage and Palmer.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

Victor Olsen



MATANUSKA—THE HAPPY VALLEY

61° 30' North Latitude

HOME OF "MATANUSKA MAID" PRODUCTS

149 15' West Longitude

The Matanuska Colonization project has taken deep root in Alaska's most beautiful and most fertile valley. A huge semi-circular wall of mountains five thousand feet high shut off the flood of intense cold from the interior of Alaska. Proximity to Cook Inlet, tempered by the warm waters of the Japanese Current, gives the valley a climate to be envied.

The agricultural lands lie on the valley floor and benches. That around, and extending south from Palmer, as well as that at the "Butte" and near camp 2, is about 240 feet above sea level. The rest has an elevation in the neighborhood of 350 feet. Fingers of graveled roads reach every tract on the project and connect the triplet towns of Palmer, Wasilla and Matanuska with Anchorage over the recently completed highway.

Each little numbered area on the map is a 40 or 80 acre colony farm where comfortable houses, big barns, plowed land, fences and grazing stock have turned the birch and spruce-clad valley into a real and productive farming community. Less than two years ago moose and bear foraged unmolested over these homesites.

The white squares are quarter sections and much of the land is held by old settlers, who, with the colonists, are making farming history for the territory and focusing the eyes of the world upon Alaska.

June 19, 1945

The Rev. Victor I. Alfson
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

Thank you for your letter of June seventh with its three reports for the three different months. We are glad to have you "come to life" on your reports and get them into us. This is the only way we have of knowing about your good work is to have you tell us about it.

I had not realized that Palmer was having a ten year celebration. May I take this opportunity of congratulating you and your people upon the progress which has been made during these years. Solid foundations have been built and certainly greater work ought to be done in the future because of the earnest work of those who have pioneered there.

Thanks for your visit and the report on Whittier. We are trying to clear this through the Alaska Committee and possibly secure a worker to go in there.

We have inquired about the possibility of a Pulpit Commentary and find that we can get a set of 52 volumes by the end of July which will cost \$59.50. We have not had a report yet whether we are getting a discount for you but will follow this up. Also Dr. Thorne indicates it might be possible to get you a 3.5mm camera which again will cost about \$45. We are trying to follow up on both of these items and will hope for a report for you soon.

Kindest regards to all three of you!

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska
JEW:FK

AUG 27 1945

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
PALMER ALASKA

August 30, 1945

John P. H.

Dear Rev. Hackman,

Here are the reports again, and again they are late but not having a secretary and having my hands full with so many things it is a wonder that I get to them at all. Seems that I cannot tell the people that I am busy when they come and want my help here and there. Suppose I am to softhearted and I say yes too readily.

But Kings Lake has kept me hopping this year. I have handled the business end of two large camps and helped with a third, beside working as a truckdriver and carpenter getting the camp in shape for the season. Together, Bingle and I, must have put in weeks of labor out there. But I believe the whole thing is amply worth while for we are giving to the youth of Alaska a place where they can go to enjoy themselves without having to associate with a lot of undesirable elements.

see a letter of 6/14/45
We are still anxiously awaiting word about that camera. Is there still hope? The more we travel around in this lovely country the more we long for the chance to put some of the things we see down on pictures.

Yesterday, Sunday, the people of the church surprised us with a fellowship dinner after services and before the whole thing was over they had handed 140 dollars to us that they had collected from among the people and they want us to invest it in a refrigerator. You could have knocked us over with a feather. Truly The Lord is greatly blessing our work in giving us a place in the hearts of the people here. We can further sense a definite spiritual growth.

Did you know that the Bromleys have been caretakers at Kings Lake this summer? We have enjoyed immensely fellowshiping with them and Mr. B has been so helpful in filling the pulpit here when I have been gone.

Will close now with best wishes for you, your family and your work; may the Lord bless you and keep you.

Yours in His Service,

Pulpit Commentary. 4227

Walter Alfson

*Virginia Carle
Fennert Hall
Princeton, N. J.*

OCT 22 1945

United Protestant Church

REV. VICTOR I. ALFSEN, PASTOR

PALMER, ALASKA

Oct. 15, 1945

Dear Mr. Jackman,

Thank you so much for your latest news bulletin . We certainly appreciate getting them and the officers are very interested in them too. I always read them at our council meetings.

I certainly will bring up the fact that you are opening up two new fields of work in Southeastern and perhaps that will be the spark to get more local support out of the people here. Armstrong and I were both thrilled to hear about it as it shows that the Board isn't all cold business after all but that it still puts faith in Phil.4:19.

I went to Whittier last week and had a fine time. The men down there are so appreciative it makes you feel good all over. The crowds have been falling off somewhat due to curtailed operations of the mill but they will be going bigger and better next spring again. In the meantime the first of three oil companies has started installing its plant. I firmly believe this place is a must on our expansion program. There seems to be no doubt among folks here that Whittier will replace Seward as the port of entry for Interior Alaska and we should have a strong work there to greet the stream of tourists that is bound to come.

The enclosed check is from the Sunday School and they should like for it to go to Sunday School Missions, preferably some pioneer work that we could find out about and follow in a more direct way.

The physical work around the property here is continuing and the next thing will be a concrete basement under the manse and I think you should take all this work into consideration when you are thinking about the support from this church. Not that I am not in favor of the church giving more, but they are really working hard in keeping the buildings and land in presentable shape and take a great deal of pride in so doing.

I had to spend nine days in the Anchorage hospital some weeks ago for some painful rectal surgery so the local work had to suffer somewhat. But now I am back in the harness again and raring to go.

Best regards,

October 25, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

A few days ago I was down to Princeton to speak to the seniors on National Missions. In the class was Miss Virginia Carle, Tennent Hall, Princeton who is there studying because you provided the inspiration for her to prepare herself further for Christian service. We talked about you and the interesting work which you are doing.

She also told me about the offerings from the people for the new refrigerator for their minister.

During the summer we sent you a set of the Pulpit Commentary which costs us \$42.27. I think it regularly sells for about \$52.--. We are glad to give you the benefit of the discount which we have received. Miss Warden has sent you a bill for this but I am wondering if it would be just as well for us to deduct it from your salary here and save the necessary interchange of checks or money orders.

We have no report from Dr. Thorne on a camera for you. We know how much this means to you and hope that the time may come when cameras are available again. It might be possible for you to find someone up there who wants to sell a good camera before leaving the territory. If you should find this possibility let us know immediately so that we would not order another for you here.

We have had a request for a statement of the benevolence quotas for the churches in Yakon Presbytery. Some of the churches, particularly along the Arctic Coast, do not know what their quotas are. We would appreciate having an immediate reply on this in order to answer questions from others.

Hope your work is going well.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

P.S. Don't let those reports get ahead of you again. We want them regularly!

NOV 13 1945

United Protestant Church

REV. VICTOR I. ALFSEN, PASTOR

PALMER, ALASKA

October 31, 1945

Dear Mr. Jackman,

Thank you so much for your letter. It was interesting to hear that you had visited with Miss Carle. She is a fine girl and so keen on Alaska. I feel flattered that she thought of me as an inspiration to go into Christian work. Maybe our work is not in vain after all, although it many times seems so.

Regarding the books I believe they were deducted from my salary already since my September check was only for ninety-some dollars. I cannot figure out either why my October check which arrived a few days ago should only be for 116 dollars when there is due me around 140? I would appreciate an explanation of this.

I am enclosing the benevolence quotas for the presbytery. Should have sent these along a long time ago but many of the cards were slow in returning. Now what is the next step for me to do? How do the church send in their money? Through me or directly. Wainright f.ex. gave me the impression that they send theirs in every month so accepting the quota was no hardship for them. If you see King maybe he can write to me and put me straight on it.

We are busily engaged in putting full concrete basement under the manse. It certainly needed it; we should have lost the building in another year or two.

You said nothing about the \$200 check from the Sunday School here for SS missions. Did you receive it? Does that count toward our benevolence giving?

There seem to be no cameras available here yet so if you could stick on the trail I would appreciate it.

Yukon presbytery meets the first Thursday in January in Cordova.

B.S.M.M.

11-15-1945 Dr. Thorne's office reports
no cameras available for purchasing until
after first of January 1946. (FK)

Best wishes,

Victor I. Alfson

Benevolence quotas
filed with April
1945 Minutes of
Yukon Pby. (FK)

November 23, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

By this time you will have received our letter in regard to the salary for the coming budget year and also will know the action of the Council of your Church concerning their willingness to advance the amount of your support by \$20.- a month beginning October 1st. We have received a letter from Mrs. Miller indicating that the Council has taken that action. We have written to the Council through her expressing our appreciation for their advance in your support. It has helped us to go ahead with other work in other parts of the Territory.

You are right about the deductions from your salary for the books. We had sent a memo to the Treasury Department and were not informed that they had also proceeded to take the amount of the books out of the salary. We had suggested to them that they take the total amount out from two or three different months so it wouldn't hit you so hard during one month but have not been informed concerning their procedure. We are sure it will be taken care of in the best manner possible.

Thank you for sending us the benevolent quotas for the Presbytery. The churches send their money either directly to the Central Receiving Agency here at 156 or some of the men have been including their checks with their monthly reports and we have been transmitting them on to the Central Receiving Agency. Our Eskimo churches along the Arctic Coast have ^{not} been very careful about following this up and remitting the quotas. We are trying to get them to do something more towards self-support. We are following the procedure of having them take monthly offerings from their congregations and remitting those offerings to our office. We are forwarding these to the C.R.A. until such time as the total benevolence quota has been cared for and then the balance will be used toward the support of their respective stations. Some of the stations have even come to the point where they are willing to accept their General Assembly assessment for the membership. In no case would these benevolence quotas be sent through the United Promotion Chairman but should be sent either directly to the C.R.A. or else through our office. In our next quarterly letter we shall try to

Page #2
The Rev. Victor I. Alfson

November 23, 1945

present a report on how the money is coming in from the various churches of both Presbyteries toward their benevolence quotas. This will give you the information how the thing is coming along.

We are enclosing the receipt for \$200. from the Sunday School for Sunday school missions. We greatly appreciate this gift and it does count on your benevolence giving. We should point out that while this has been designated particularly for Sunday school missions under the Board of National Missions every church should give something to the other Boards of the Church also.

Congratulations to you and your people in all of the good work which you are doing. We are glad to hear that you are putting a concrete basement under the manse. This will be a great help to you and certainly will make a better building of it. We are delighted with the progress which is coming in the United Protestant Church of Palmer under your cooperation with the people.

You will be interested to know that we hope to have a couple soon for Barrow. This will fill every place which we now have. Our next hope on the list is to secure a single man who will go to Whittier and do some work there. We feel that things are moving forward and are more encouraged about our whole Church program in the Territory.

Kindest regards to you and your wife.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

Enc. Receipt #F34197-\$200.-

FEB 11 1946

United Protestant Church

REV. VICTOR I. ALFSEN, PASTOR

PALMER, ALASKA

February 5, 1946

Dear Mr. Jackman,

Just sent off a couple of reports yesterday but failed to tell you about the property report. We will act upon it when the council meets tomorrow but in the meantime we would want to you know that we will be able to take care of any repairs or alterations that might come up. The property as a whole is in a very good state of repair.

I suppose you have heard about the Presbytery going on record as favoring the establishment of a four year liberal arts college here in the valley. I am sure that you know the channels that we should go through to get this plan before the proper authorities. We should like to have it a Presbyterian school but there is so much interest in the project here in Palmer that I feel the folks would want us to go ahead and establish an independent college if the church should choose to turn us down. 80 acres of desirable *land* has been donated and I have applied for an adjoining 160 acres. The property is about 2½ miles from the center of Palmer. I should appreciate hearing from you in regard to this matter.

I want to thank you for my Christmas book. You made a wise choice as usual. This is a book that I have long contemplated buying for myself and I know that it is going to help me in my work here.

We received 7 new members into our fellowship last Sunday and will probably add three to that next Sunday. Some fine people have been moving into the community of late and they have asked (we are ashamed that we did not invite them) to join. We are planning a communicant's class leading up to Easter and will at that time add some young blood to the roster.

All in all the work is progressing very nicely and we are very happy here; and well too.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

Victor Alfson

March 4, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

Your letter came when I was on a long trip on the west coast and it has not been answered the way it should. We are always glad to hear from you and to hear of the progress of your work. It must be a great compensation to you to have new members coming in and new families in the valley which will give a brighter prospect for the future.

We have had the report concerning the action of the Presbytery about establishing a four year liberalized College in the valley. You fellows certainly have put your necks out pretty far. While I cannot give you very much official encouragement in the matter, I certainly admire your spunk about wanting to get things done.

I have notified Miss Voss, who is in charge of the educational work of our Board, about the action of the Presbytery. Her response was that the whole Territory ought to give united support to the Jr. College experiment in Sitka. Also we have notified the Board of Christian Education about the action of Presbytery but have had no response from them. If we do not hear from them within a reasonable time, we shall write to them again. We want to give adequate support for every solid foundational movement in the Territory but do not want you to go out too far on the end of the limb. Two and a half years ago Dr. Keeler came back from the Territory advocating a Presbyterian College up there but he got no action and no encouragement for it. I do not know what will happen to your venture.

What action did Presbytery take in regard to the payment of the expense of Harry Champlin to go over to Nome for that survey. Our budget is very tight and already I have committed ourselves to more money than the Board has allowed me for this budget year. The Committee has sent a very reasonable report, a copy of which I have passed on to Dr. Dawber, Secretary of the Home Missions Council. Inasmuch as we have no right under comity to be in Nome, I am just a little bit embarrassed

Page #2
The Rev. Victor I. Alfsen

March 4, 1946

about using the Board's funds to pay for Harry's trip. On the other hand, I do admire the spirit which you fellows have in wanting to get things done in an efficient way and I do not want to let Harry down. Perhaps we should be a little more sure where the money is coming from before we obligate ourselves in any of these new ventures.

Kindest regards to you and your wife. I hope to see you in April.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska
JEJ:FK

United Protestant Church

REV. VICTOR I. ALFSEN, PASTOR

PALMER, ALASKA

March 20, 1946

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Auch.

Dear Mr. Jackman,

Thank you for your letter regarding the college plans of the presbytery. Talked with Army a few days ago about it and he said something about the presbytery going ahead even if we do not get the blessings of headquarters. What about that?

In my report you will notice that we had 130 in the evening of the last Sunday. On that evening we showed the American Bible Society's picture "The Book for the World of Tomorrow" which was very well received. An offering of \$2.50 was taken and sent to the Society; does that count toward our benevolence quota?

As you have probably heard I am the new stated clerk for the gang up here and I was wondering if there is some sort of manual that a fellow could get hold of which would help me in getting started?

Otherwise the work is progressing nicely here. The stork flew over here the other day and made reservation for a private room with basinette some time toward the end of the summer.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

Victor Alfson

P. S.

I am at present enrolled in night school taking typing and the above is my first attempt at touch-typing so please excuse the mess. Hope you will be able to notice some improvement as time goes by.

June 13, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfson
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

According to our records you are still the Chairman of United Promotion for your Presbytery and we would like to receive the benevolence quotas for the present church year of 1946-47. When we have these in our possession, we can do a little promotion on this through the quarterly bulletin.

It runs in my mind that Armstrong was elected the new Chairman of United Promotion but I may be mistaken about that. Please set us right.

Army wired us about the destruction of the Palmer Hospital. We greatly regret this because it removes from your community a source of necessary help for your people. Army suggested that the Seventh Day Adventists may be withdrawing from the operation of the hospital and asked us if we would be willing to operate it. We are presenting this matter to the meeting of our Board's Executive Committee on June 20th in a tentative form which would indicate that if the community should ask us to operate the hospital the Board would authorize our Department of Missionary Operation to give favorable consideration to it within the resources of the Board. We shall await the action of the Board on this matter.

We have been unable as yet to get any materials for the new Church at Savoonga. Lumber is so scarce down here and priorities so hard to get that we have had no encouragement yet.

We are thinking of you and Virginia these days and hope that all is going well for all of you.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

September 26, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

We have no official report yet from the proud father that he has a son but Army made a note on the bottom of one of his recent letters that a son had arrived in your home. We trust that Mother and son are doing well and that the father has not been too severe with him yet.

We realize the important place you hold in your community and the fact that people would be willing to help you when such emergencies come along. However, we know that small salaries and medical expenses do not go well together so we are enclosing a check from a special fund in our Board for \$100. to help cover the cost of the new arrival. This is possible only because some kind friends have given us a little extra money we might use for special purposes. We are certain that this event is a special one.

Last Wednesday night I spoke at the mid-week service of the church in Homestead, Pennsylvania and a number of the people were asking about you. I had to devote a part of my talk to a description of your family, community, and work. They all sent you their greetings.

We know that you are very busy but don't let those reports get back too far. Be sure to give us some story about what you are doing because here and there people ask about you and I always like to have the latest information to give them. Soon we shall be sending out the letters asking the churches to do their part for the coming year. We are going to ask your Church to take the \$600. again and more if they can. As the Valley grows prosperous we hope they will be able to increase their support of their minister.

Kindest personal regards to you and Virginia!

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

P.S. The formal notice of the arrival of Victor Irvin has just been

DEC 30 1946

THE UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
Palmer, Alaska

The Manse
Dec 24
1946

Dear Friends:

The year is about at its end, but before the last hour ticks away, the United Protestant Church would send you a most heartfelt greeting. It has been a good year, we have noticed many new faces in the congregation and we have had the pleasure of welcoming many of these fine folks as members of the church. We rejoice to see you all at services but it truly warms our hearts when you express the desire to unite in a more vital way by joining as full-fledged fellow workers.

Our services have been greatly enhanced and made more comfortable by two additions to our physical set-up. You who have heard our Hammond Electric organ, I am sure agree that it adds greatly to the worshipful atmosphere in our lovely auditorium. And the new oil-burning unit in the furnace -- well, you old-timers can remember the days of the ski pants, overshoes and even blankets. Believe it or not, we are comfortable now even with our coats off. Yes, we can beat the below-zero weather now, and we can laugh at the "Matanuska" wind; but when they come together, as they did for two Sundays recently -- well, that's one problem on which we need to do a little more work.

But oil-burners and organs cost money, as did the concrete basement under the manse and -- (Shhh! -- we wouldn't want you to breathe this to a soul) we are, shall we say, slightly financially embarrassed. But, seriously friends, if, with all the other worthy causes on your lists, you could remember the church with a gift, it would be greatly appreciated.

We would like to report that our Christian Endeavor is showing real progress these days. The young folks take care of their own meetings and do a fine job of it. They have also kept up their end of the benevolence budget. An active Christian Endeavor is a hopeful sign for the future of the church.

It is impossible to give a very complete picture of the achievements of the church in a letter of this kind, but we can offer you something far better. Sunday, January 12, following our morning service, there will be a fellowship dinner which will lead into an annual congregational meeting, at which time we will review the year in detail. We hope that many of you will find it possible to stay for both the dinner and the meeting.

Tomorrow will be Christmas! Families will be gathered around an abundant table, faces shining with excitement, and a contented feeling will steal over everyone. Will you stop and give thanks to Him, Our Heavenly Father, who has blessed us so abundantly; and will you resolve to go into the new year with the motto, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." I hope you will!

And from your pastor and his family, thank you for all your kindnesses in the past year, for your cooperation, for your prayers, and most recently, for your greetings and gifts.

Yours in Christian fellowship,

Victor Alfson

DEC 30 1946

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

PALMER ALASKA

Dec. 26, 1946

Dear Dr. Jackman,

Here are my reports the usual number of weeks late. As you may notice I have started going over to Wasilla for services there. I had talks with several of the families over there and they more or less asked me to come over. Bingle used to cover that field years ago but Randall let it drop I understand. There is a fine spirit over there and I believe there would be a possibility of organizing something similar to our set-up here in Palmer. I am going to try to get a man and a lady to go to presbytery.

shall we ask for ch?

That brings me to the second point. Could we have our \$200 for our expence account? We don't know how many representatives we will have but we hope to have a good meeting. Wish you could make it up.

2. I received about a dozen books the other day from the Board. I don't remember who is responsible for sending them but they made a very worthwhile and useful choice. If you know who is responsible would you express to them my sincerest thanks.

You asked about the salary? Well, I can truthfully say that we are not able to save anything on it. I pay a dollar charge to the bank nearly every month because my checking account goes below \$100. But then things are extremely high just now. A bar of Ivory soap is 24 cents and canned milk is 22 cents a can. And I just spent \$126 on the car and at that I did all the dirty work myself. The car was laid up for more than six weeks so my calling suffered. The weather was most extreme for a while there. The worst in the memory of the colony. One Sunday we had to have church in the manse.

2. We have been wondering if it would be able for us to get a grant toward the concrete basement under the church? It will be a large item and I don't know if we would be able to swing it alone along with all the improvements we made this year.

Well, I'll close now. Happy New Year.

In Christian Fellowship,

Victe Alfson

ask for extra \$100. for Alfson

Earl: For your information. You might send the original letter back to me if for my files unless you wish to keep it.

B.

Ret'd 10/28/58

AUG 8 1958

Re Victor Alfsen

August 5, 1958

Mr. Robert G. Sauer, Chairman
Committee on Church Development
Secul Union Church
APO 301, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Sauer:

Your letter of July 13th reached me just today and I hasten to reply. I know the Rev. Victor Alfsen well, having followed him as pastor of the United Protestant Church at Palmer, and having been a fellow pastor with him in Yukon Presbytery for 6 years.

Theologically Mr. Alfsen is very conservative. I believe he has broadened his narrow conservatism during the past 6 years but he is still very conservative.

As I have observed Mr. Alfsen's ministry, pastoral calling is one of the "duties" he does not like. He does calling but only a minimum amount.

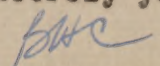
Persons who meet Mr. Alfsen are prone to think he is quite critical and even sarcastic. This is a pre-judgement I feel, but nevertheless it is often the case.

Mr. Alfsen has a rare sense of humor and is highly regarded by his fellow ministers. He has brought his church in Fairbanks through a building program and has given excellent leadership in this area. He has broad interests beyond his own parish in Presbytery and civic affairs. He is an excellent preacher, blending deep Bible study with witticisms and humor that keep people listening to him.

His family is a fine asset to him. His wife Virginia is a very gracious host and meets people well. She is an accomplished organizer.

If you wish another person's opinion, one who is very able to give a fair opinion after being supervisor of his work for over 12 years I suggest you write Dr. J. Earl Jackman, whose address is above. If I can help you further, please do not hesitate writing.

Sincerely yours,


Brian H. Cleworth

